

SOME RECENT STATISTICS ABOUT RAPA NUI: The 3,700 inhabitants have nearly 1,500 houses, 1,800 vehicles, 1,000 televisions, 700 telephones, and 260 computers, 70% of which are connected to the internet. At present there are 12 hotels, plus cabañas and residenciales; an airport and a port. The latter are the ports of entry for tourists who, in 2004, numbered 34,000.

A CHILEAN ORTHODONTIST, Jaime Briones, sent a letter to the Editor of *El Mercurio de Valparaíso* to inform readers that he has e-mailed three times to the island's mayor, Petero Edmunds, and also tried calling him on the telephone, but to no avail. He wanted to stress to the mayor that the island desperately needs a dentist, that Rapanui have to suffer toothaches and knocked-out teeth, or else go to the mainland for dental care. He stated that he, personally, would be happy to volunteer.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso for 21 May 2005

THE RAPA NUI LANGUAGE ACADEMY/COMMISSION. Last December, in the Provincial Governor's offices, some forty Rapanui assembled to read and accept a tentative draft of by-laws and to formally register their intent to establish a private, non-profit Academia de la Lengua Rapa Nui. Legal approval and recognition by the government are currently being sought. Initially, a provisional acting board of directors was selected, however, the new current board – of which Virginia Haoa is President – was elected for one year. The matter of determining just who will be the 36 permanent Rapanui members of the Academy is still in flux. And some work is needed to better define the language needs and objectives, and to orient the community.

The Academy meets weekly and is beginning to address issues of alphabet, spelling, and the creation of neologisms. During a one-hour long television program in June, a few of the members explained to the community about these issues and about the Academy that is being established. Overall the reaction and participation of the Rapanui population has been favorable. One concern is how to motivate the majority of adults who still lack fluency, and even interest, in reading in the Rapanui language.

EARTHQUAKE TREMORS IN THE REGION around Rapa Nui prompted a note in *El Mercurio de Valparaíso* (June 28, 2005), about strong tremors in the zone around the island, and wondered about the catastrophe of a tsunami that might result from the quakes, and if the Rapanui were prepared for such a disaster. Between June 16 and June 28, there were 13 quakes listed for the region around Easter Island. While they have been of 5.7 or less, there were five quakes on June 23rd alone. They have been occurring at a depth of ten km.

THE LATEST "EXPLORER'S LOG" (Vol. 37, No. 3) 2005, states that John Loret, Robert Hemm, and Marcelo Mendez returned from a "flag expedition" to Easter Island where, along with eleven other members of the Explorer's Club, they surveyed a 'newly discovered ahu with two moai... They measured and recorded the exposed ahu and moai and surveyed the surrounding areas, taking extensive photographs both "on the ground and from the air". Nowhere does this item mention

where this "newly discovered ahu" is located or how it was photographed from the air. Levitation?

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Bentley, R.A., M. Pietrusewsky, M. T. Douglas, and T. C. Atkinson. 2005. Matrilocality during the prehistoric transition to agriculture in Thailand? *Antiquity* 79:1-17.
- Bulletin de la Société des Etudes Océaniques (Polynésie orientale)*, No. 302. Mai 2005 (175 pages; seo@archives.gov.pf). This issue contains "Histoire des écoles aux îles Marquises (1858-1904)" by Frère Joseph Le Port; "Tiki, témoins du Fenua 'enata" by Pierre Ottino; "Archéologie du chien marquisien" by Sidsel Millerstrom; "Le me'ae Taka'oa" by Robert Suggs; "Quand découvrir c'est perdre, ou de la disparition des objets dans les Mers du Sud", by Emily Donaldson; "Mise à jour réglementaire des mises au jour archéologiques" by Robert Koenig; and "Le temps en Océanie" by Jean Guiart.
- Le Bulletin du Centre d'Etudes sur l'Île de Pâques et la Polynésie* (CEIPP), 78, juillet 2005. Délégation de la Polynésie française à Paris, 28, boulevard Saint-Germain, 75005, Paris France. No. 79 contains an article by Raymond Duranton regarding two contradictory rongorongo designs.
- Cochrane, E. E., M. Pietrusewsky, and M. T. Douglas. 2004. Culturally modified human remains recovered from an earth-oven interment on Waya Island, Fiji. *Archaeology in Oceania* 39: 54-59.
- Kirch, P. V., S. O'Day, J. Coil, M. Morgenstein, K. Kawelu, and S. Millerstrom. 2003. The Kaupikiawa Rockshelter, Kalaupapa Peninsula, Molokai: New Investigations and Reinterpretation of its Significance for Hawaiian Prehistory. *People and Culture in Oceania* 19:1-27.
- Millerstrom, Sidsel. 2003. Ritual Architecture in the Northern Marquesas Archipelago. *Bilan de la recherche archéologique en Polynésie française*. Pp. 103-109. Dossier d'Archéologie polynésienne, No. 2. Service de la Culture et du Patrimoine, Puaaauia.
- Millerstrom, Sidsel N. 2003. Rock Art Research in Polynesia 1995-1999. *Rock Art Studies, News of the World 2. Developments in Rock Art Research 1995-1999*, edited by Paul G. Bahn and Angelo Fossati; pp.147-164. Oxbow Books, UK.
- Millerstrom, Sidsel N. 2004. Facts and Fantasies: The Archaeology of the Marquesan Dog. *Behavior Beyond Bones. The Zooarchaeology of Ritual, Religion, Status and Identity*. Proceedings of the 9th ICAZ Conference, Durham. Sharyn Jones O'Day, Wim Van Neer and Anton Ervynck, eds.:144-152. Oxbow Books, UK.
- Millerstrom, S. and P. V. Kirch. 2004. Petroglyphs at Kahiki-nui, Maui, Hawaiian Islands: Rock Images within a Polynesian Settlement Landscape. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 70; Pp. 107-127.
- Pietrusewsky, M. and M. T. Douglas. 2002. *Ban Chiang, A Prehistoric Site in Northeast Thailand. I: The Human Skeletal Remains*. University Museum Monograph 111. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Museum of Ar-

- chaeology and Anthropology.
- Pietrusewsky, M. 2005. The Physical Anthropology of the Pacific, East Asia, and Southeast Asia: A Multivariate Craniometric Analysis. *The Peopling of East Asia: Putting Together Archaeology, Linguistics, and Genetics*. L. Sagart, R. Blench and A. Sanchez-Mazas, eds.:201-229. London: RoutledgeCurzon.
- Pietrusewsky, M. 2004. Multivariate comparisons of female cranial series from the Ryukyu Islands and Japan. *Anthropological Science* 112:199-211.
- Pietrusewsky, M. and Ching-fang Chang. 2003. Taiwan Aborigines and peoples of the Pacific-Asian region: Multivariate craniometric comparisons. *Anthropological Science* 111(3):293-332.
- Pietrusewsky, M. and Cheng-hwa Tsang. 2003. A preliminary assessment of health and disease in human skeletal remains from Shi San Hang: A prehistoric aboriginal site on Taiwan. *Anthropological Science* 111(2): 203-223.
- Pietrusewsky, M. and M. T. Douglas. 2001. Intensification of agriculture at Ban Chiang: Is there evidence from the skeletons? *Asian Perspectives* 40: 157-178.
- Shepardson, B. L. 2005. The Role of Rapa Nui (Easter Island) Statuary as Territorial Boundary Markers. *Antiquity* 79: 169-178.
- Tahiti Pacifique*. Mensuel d'information et d'economie. Juillet 2005. www.tahiti-pacifique.com BP 368, Moorea, Polynésie Française. The July issue has an extensive article, "L'affaire du Rainbow Warrior," twenty years after that tragic event.
- Terry, James and Warwick Murray. 2005. *Niue Island—Geographical Perspectives on the Rock of Polynesia*. International Scientific Council for Island Development-UNESCO, Paris. The book covers long-term evolution, soils, climatic hazards, food import dependency, etc.
- John Flenley and Paul Bahn's *Enigmas of Easter Island* has been published in Korea (2005) by Ahchimyisul Publishing, Seoul. We'd give the title in Korean, but can't read it.
- Wallin, P., C. Stevenson and T. N. Ladefoged. 2005. Sweet potato production on Rapa Nui. *The Sweet Potato in Oceania: A Reappraisal*. C. Ballard, P. Brown, R. M. Bourke and T. Harwood, eds. :85-88. *Ethnology Monograph* 19, University of Pittsburgh; and *Oceanic Monograph* 56, Sydney University.
- Also: William J. Thomson's 1889 classic report, *Te Pito te Henua or Easter Island*, is available from LongRead Classics in Great Britain, edited by Robert Murray Smith. It is a print-on-demand book available at \$9.00, \$18.00, & \$27.00, depending on the type of binding. 170 pages.

EIF NEWS

EIF'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

WIEGAND SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER, IOAN HAUMOANA SOLER HOTU, who is attending college in the United States

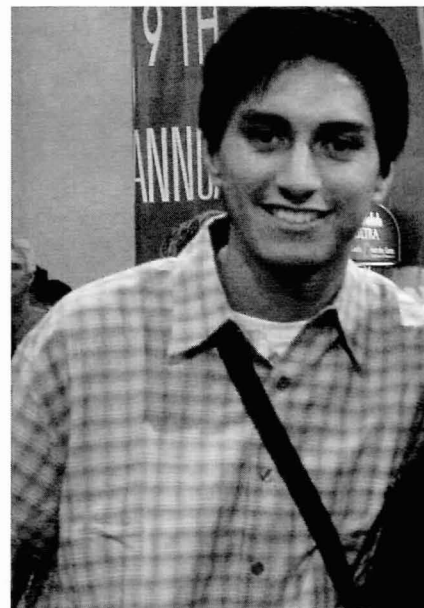
with the help of his scholarship award, sent us a brief update on his progress.

Ioan wrote: "I moved to America from Rapa Nui in March of 2001 and I have been attending school for the last four years. I originally came with the simple intention of learning English, an important skill to apply on the island. And then I planned to return to the island once my language proficiency had reached a high level. It was during those two years that I realized that I could pursue a career at college level despite the tremendous economic expenses. I enrolled at El Camino College (Torrance, CA) which has one of the best transfer rates to four-year universities in the greater city of Los Angeles as well as in the States. I began taking classes in different fields such as Anthropology, Geology, and Political Science, among others, helping me to enlarge my knowledge and gain a broader view of the world we live in. I also have been taking a number of classes in the field of Computers, specifically for an A.S. Degree in Computer Information Systems.

Living in California is like a rollercoaster in comparison to the quiet and slow pace of life on Rapa Nui. Despite this, I believe that I have made a successful transition. During these years I have been joined by three more students coming from Rapa Nui in pursuit of their dreams and ambitions. I live with one of them, a cousin of mine; we have known each other since childhood. His name is Ito Pakarati, an up-and-coming recording artist whose music has become very popular on the island, with a CD released just a couple of years ago. He is studying music and has a scholarship at Brigham Young University, Oahu, starting this fall. The other two young Rapanui are Tongariki Teave, a film major, and Martin Hereveri, an architecture mayor.

Eventually I hope to transfer to a four-year college and finish my education. I hope to begin classes next spring at either at California State University at Long Beach or Dominguez Hills. Both have transfers with my school and are within a 15-mile drive. The drawback is the high tuition and expenses (around \$20,000 yearly, which is the rate set for international students). As an alternative, I might consider a transfer to Brigham Young University, but it is not my priority at this time.

Hopefully, after school is finished, I will take a year or so to work in the field and gain some experience and improve my résumé. The next is to make the transition back to my island home: I want to give back to my culture what I have



Ioan Soler Hotu, Wiegand Scholarship winner, now attending college in Southern California.